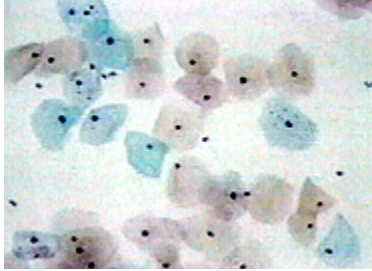


Cervical Cancer Vaccine Coming to Northern California

Written for the web by [Alicia Malaby](#), Anchor-Reporter



Medical providers are expected to soon start providing coverage for the vaccination against cervical cancer. The vaccine, Gardasil, targets most strains of human papilloma virus (HPV) which causes 70 percent of cervical cancer cases. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted virus.

Kaiser Permanente announced that it will begin providing the vaccine based on recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control. The recommendations call for routine vaccination of all girls, ages 11 and 12. For adolescents 13 and older receiving the vaccination, the recommendations include providing a discussion of the potential benefit based on the number of sexual partners.

The state of California is waiting for recommendations from the federal Health and Human Services Agency before it offers the vaccination under programs such as Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. The recommendation is expected next month.

Currently, parents wanting to vaccinate their daughters are finding they may have to pay out-of-pocket for the vaccine. The vaccine is administered in a series of three shots and costs \$360. Dr. Michael Wilkes of U.C. Davis Children's Hospital said he expects health plans to cover the cost of the vaccine. He added, "I think it's a no-brainer. I think this is a huge advantage."